

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05555 241801Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /050 W

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R 241630Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1589
INFO AMCONSUL
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IT, US
SUBJECT: IMPACT OF EMERGENCY POLICE ACTONS ON DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

1. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED ON MARCH 23 A CIRCULAR
NOTE TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS DATED MARCH 20 REQUESTING
COOPERATION WITH THE ITALIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES IN THEIR
CURRENT EXTENSIVE EFFORTS RELATING TO THE KIDNAPPING OF EX-
PRIME MINISTER MORO. THE NOTE REQUESTS MEMBERS OF THE
DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES TO COOPERATE WITH
THE POLICE ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS WHERE THERE ARE CURRENTLY
EXTENSIVE POLICE ROADBLOCKS. THE NOTE ALSO REQUESTS "THE
MAXIMUM COURTEOUS COOPERATION" IN THE CASE OF SEARCHES OF
RESIDENCES BY THE POLICE FORCES. THE NOTE ITSELF STATES THAT
THE POLICE FORCES WILL CLEARLY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND THE
MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY ARE REQUESTED TO
DISPLAY IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. INFORMALLY, THE MINISTRY OF
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS ADVISED US THAT IN SOME CASES THE
POLICE FORCES MAY INSIST ON A SEARCH OF A RESIDENCE
OF A MEMBER OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS SENT A RESPONSE TO THE MINISTRY'S
NOTE STATING THAT IT HAS INSTRUCTED THE MEMBERS
OF ITS STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES TO OBSERVE POLICE ROAD-

BLOCKS AND TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES UPON REQUEST IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES. IN RESPONSE TO THE MINISTRY'S REQUEST FOR "MAXIMUM COURTEOUS COOPERATION" IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE SEARCHES OF THE RESIDENCES OF MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF, THE EMBASSY REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: "PARAGRAPH THREE OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED NOTE REQUESTS THE COOPERATION OF THE STAFF OF THE EMBASSY AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE REQUESTS BY THE ITALIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES TO SEARCH RESIDENCES. THIS EMBASSY HAS INSTRUCTED THE MEMBERS OF ITS STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES TO RESPOND TO ANY SUCH REQUEST BY SHOWING APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE POLICE AUTHORITIES. THIS EMBASSY WOULD HOPE THAT THOSE AUTHORITIES WOULD, UPON RECEIVING SUCH IDENTIFICATION, RESPECT THE INVIOLABILITY OF DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCES. IN THE EVENT THAT POLICE AUTHORITIES MAKING SUCH A REQUEST SHOULD INSIST UPON A SEARCH OF THE RESIDENCE OF A MEMBER OF THIS EMBASSY'S STAFF, AFTER HAVING BEEN SHOWN APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THIS EMBASSY HAS INSTRUCTED THE MEMBERS OF ITS STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES TO COMMUNICATE IMMEDIATELY WITH A RESPONSIBLE OFFICER OF THE EMBASSY WHO WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THE ITALIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES

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SHOULD THEY HAVE A PARTICULAR REASON TO WISH TO SEARCH THE RESIDENCE IN QUESTION. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE MINISTRY WOULD, IN THE INTEREST OF AVOIDING MISUNDERSTANDINGS, INFORM THE APPROPRIATE ITALIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES OF THE FOREGOING." THE EMBASSY HAS CIRCULATED A NOTICE TO ALL AMERICAN EMPLOYEES INFORMING THEM OF THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THE HIGH STATE OF TENSION IN THE ROME AREA AND THE EXTENSIVE ROUND THE CLOCK EFFORTS BY THE POLICE TO FIND SOME TRACE OF MORO'S KIDNAPPERS, WE ARE INCLINED TO BE AS COOPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE WHILE PRESERVING THE PRINCIPLE OF THE INVIOLABILITY OF DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCES. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT UPON ADEQUATE IDENTIFICATION OF THE RESIDENCE AS BELONGING TO A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY STAFF, THE POLICE WILL NOT INSIST ON A SEARCH. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY APPEAR TO HAVE GOOD REASON TO INSIST ON A SEARCH, WE ARE INCLINED TO BE COOPERATIVE ALTHOUGH EACH CASE WILL OBVIOUSLY DEPEND UPON THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS OR GUIDANCE THE DEPARTMENT MAY

WISH TO PROVIDE.

4. COPIES OF THE MINISTRY'S NOTE AND THE EMASSY'S
REPLY BEING POUCHED TO ITALIAN DESK.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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